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OUR LONDON LETTER.

[FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.]

THE JEWS AND THE NEW JERUSALEM.

LONDON, November 24th.

As a result of the success of the British troops in Palestine there is the prospect of the settlement of Jews in the Land of Israel, in connection with which the House of Rothschild, both in England and France, displays the liveliest interest, backed by hard cash. The most representative Jewish family can be relied upon to assist with their vast resources the realisation of the long-deferred Restoration.

Of course, many sceptical and cynical minds are prone to the over-optimism of the mere Turk from the over-optimism of the great disposition exists among the Jews to return to Palestine. At any rate, the wealthier class need not be expected to hold a new Feast of the Passover immediately, peace is declared and forthwith set out for the Promised Land. However, that may be, with the country under British sovereignty, for it is inconceivable that it will ever return to the Turks under any settlement, peace or war, things may happen, and among them the re-creation of a nation of Jews living in their own territory.

A NASTY KNOCK FOR THE KAISER.

The Jews never entertained any illusions about German policy in the Near East. They were sharp enough to realise that where Kaiserism was in power, liberty could not survive. For this reason they were not deceived when the Kaiser on his white ass rode through the streets of Damascus during the memorable tour of the Holy Land some years ago, nor have they forgotten that he designated the ancient city as a porch of the Grand Eastern Gate.

Following General Allenby's successes, the Churches in this country have become mildly excited. As I write, the capture of Jerusalem is expected almost hourly, and in view of this some of the Bishops have arranged for the church bells to be rung by way of thanksgiving as soon as the Holy City is reported in British hands. The feeling is quite natural and easily understood. Nothing so strikingly picturesque and dramatic has happened for ages as the approaching capture of the mere Turk from the over-optimism of the Cradle of Christianity.

The mere mention of this awakens innumerable emotions, thoughts, desires; it stirs the imagination as one thinks of the place that Palestine has filled in human history for two thousand years. One cannot help recalling that English soldiers under the flag of Lion were within three miles of Jerusalem in 1191, and now after over 700 years they are there again! It also reminds me of Mark Twain's saying that the English are mentioned in the Bible. Blessed are the meek for they shall inherit the earth!

The victory before Calcutta is due in large measure to the work of the Tanks, which flattened out the German barbed wire entanglements, wiped out nests of machine-guns, and generally made a clear way for the infantry to advance with preliminary artillery preparation, which always, of necessity, tells the enemy what to expect and to make ready. Apropos of this, it may be recorded that the true origin of the name Tanks, more picturesque than the various usual, is published. I give it on the authority of Sir W. Tritton, who is the real inventor of this new contribution to the machine-made warfare of the present day.

When the construction of the Tanks was begun the Messrs. William Foster & Co.'s works the employed were very tedious, so they were told, that the extraordinary machines were water-carriers for use in Mesopotamia. That was too much of a mouthful for the men, who accordingly shortened the description into "Tanks." Thus "Tanks" they have remained, and "Tanks" they will probably remain until the last shot is fired in the battles of the world.

Needless to say, the truth had in time to be confessed to the workmen, and, as regards this, Sir W. Tritton states, "I do not think sufficient credit has ever been paid to them for the wonderful way they kept the secret."

GAMBLING IN THE WEST END.

One outcome of the abnormal conditions of the times is the revival of fashionable gaming. Luxuriously appointed houses where play for high stakes goes on are beginning to increase in the West End of London, chiefly in the Mayfair, Maiden Vale, and St. James' Champs. In fact, the game most in vogue, when it becomes known through the army of spies and vampires who seem to be inseparable auxiliaries of these places, the police are taking an interest in a particular house a move is at once made to another part of the town. There is an elaborate system of keeping carried on by smart women in the night clubs and hotels west of Charing Cross, and the majority of the "pigeons" are wealthy women who, with time on their hands and no means of Continental travel as in pre-war days, are compelled to stay in London.

As the keepers of West End gaming houses take from 5/0 to 6/ in each 21 stakes the profits are enormous. Indeed, in some of the Mayfair houses it is not unusual for as much as £400 to be made in a single night by the croupier. As an illustration of what is happening it may be said that recently a woman who was left a fortune by a relative in Canada lost £20,000 in three months.

AMERICAN SOLDIERS IN EUROPE.

A friend whose nephew is in one of the famous English county regiments on the Western Front tells me that the American troops who are finishing their training behind the line in France are earning golden opinions on the part of both British and French soldiers in contact with them. The latter referred to in a letter home says: "I have met quite a lot of American officers lately and have formed a very high opinion of them. The first I expected them to tell me that they had come over to show us Englishmen how to finish the war."

[Continued at foot of next column.]

SEAMEN'S STANDARD WAGES.

RATES FIXED.

The Shipping Controller announces that the National Maritime Board have recommended the following standard rates, which have been confirmed by him:

FOR SEAMEN AND FIREMEN ON MONTHLY DECK DEPARTMENT.

	per month.
Carpenter	£14 0 0
Bosun	13 0 0
Bosun's mate	12 0 0
Lamp-trimmers	12 0 0
Quartermaster	12 0 0
Able seaman	11 10 0

ENGINE-ROOM DEPARTMENT.

	per month.
Donkeyman	£13 0 0
Storekeeper	13 0 0
Leading firemen (when carried)	12 10 0
Greaser	12 10 0
Fireman	12 0 0

The rates of pay of sailors and firemen on weekly articles, finding their own food, will be £3 17s. 6d. per week, but rates of pay for other ratings on weekly articles and also for ordinary seamen and trimmers on monthly articles have still to be fixed.

The rates named are inclusive of all bonuses and additions, and do not apply to vessels under 200 tons gross, or to vessels sailing under the share system. These and other exceptional cases, including railway-owned vessels, will be separately considered. The new standard rates apply to all men who have signed articles since October 6th from the date of signing. The Board is considering the case of men who signed articles previous to October 6th.

The officers and men of any department not included in the determinations announced above are reminded that they are fully protected as to the new rates about to be fixed, by virtue of the retrospective clause in their articles, so that they suffer nothing by signing on at their existing rates of pay.

HONGKONG POLICE RESERVE.

ORDERS ISSUED BY MR. F. C. JERKIN, D.S.P. (RESERVE).

GREGSON STREET.

The following letter is published for the information of all ranks:

Sir,—I am directed by the Governor to inform you, and, through you, to the Officers, Inspectors, Sergeants and Constables of the Police Reserve His Excellency's great appreciation of the assistance rendered by the Police Force rendered by the Reserve in connection with the Gregson Street murders, and of the sympathy and help extended to the Hongkong Police on the occasion of the burial of the victims of the outrage.—I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

CLAUDE SEVLEY (Colonial Secretary).

F. C. JERKIN, Esq., Deputy Supt. of Police (R.).

By Order, T. F. HUGHES, A.S.P. (R.) and Adjutant.

Hongkong, 28th January, 1918.

OFFICERS' INCOME-TAX CONCESSION.

As a further income-tax concession, officers will be granted an allowance on account of the cost of uniform.

Under the Finance Act of 1916 deductions for abatement, life assurance, and children were to be made chiefly from Army pay, but under this year's Act they are to be made first from earned income other than Army pay; secondly, from unearned income, and lastly, from pay. Officers pay on the lowest scale.

something similar. But this is exactly the opposite to their point of view. They admit frankly that America is in exactly a similar position to what England was in three years ago. Their first job is to train, and their work is always ready to pick up all the tips they can about the war. Physically they are a fine lot of fellows, and if the rest of the American Army is like them, they will do wonders. I am glad only to destroy a particularly mischievous enemy to the effect that friction has arisen between the Americans and British. No doubt if the truth were known it would be found that the story was started by German agents.

In order to follow with intelligent interest the messages which come through from Russia it may be appropriate to remind readers who are not close students of Russian politics what the parties are whose names occur so frequently in the cablegrams.

The "Soviet" (pronounced "Soviet") is Communist. When Tsardom was overthrown by workmen and troops in Petrograd their leaders formed a council of workmen and soldiers which they called their "Soviet" or Council. "Cadea" is an abbreviation of "Constitutional Democracy" in Russian ("Konstitutsionalnaya Demokraticheskaya") which was known for short as the "K.D." party, and is now called the "Cadea." They were the largest group in the first freely elected Duma, their aim being to set up a form of Government on the British Constitution.

"Bolshevik" means "Great Majority," and they consist of the working classes and millions of soldiers who are opposed to further fighting and demand an immediate peace. This party is identical with the "Maximalists." They profess the gospel of State Socialism as expounded by Karl Marx, whereby ultimate good is to be obtained by violence; while on the other hand, the "Minimalists" advocate revolution by evolution.—H.B.

THE NEW SHIPPING COUNCIL.

The Admiralty announce that the formation of a Shipbuilding Council has been approved, under the chairmanship of the Admiralty Controller. On this Council representatives of the shipbuilding and engineering trades will be joined by officers of the Admiralty, and problem of naval and commercial shipbuilding and repair will be considered.

The Council differs from the Shipbuilding Advisory Committee by the inclusion of naval shipbuilding in its purview, and by being relieved from certain executive functions in the placing and following-up of contracts which have been undertaken by the Admiralty Controller, and Director of Contracts. The names of those gentlemen who have already notified their willingness to serve on the body are:

Mr. W. S. Abell, Chief Surveyor of Lloyd's.

Sir George Carter, K.B.E., Managing Director of Messrs. Cammell Laird & Co.

Mr. H. N. Henderson, of Messrs. D. W. Henderson, Shipbuilders, Glasgow.

Mr. James Marr, of Messrs. J. L. Thompson & Co., Shipbuilders, Sunderland.

Mr. A. C. Ross, Director of Messrs. Hawthorn, Leslie & Co.

Mr. H. B. Rowell, Chairman of Messrs. Hawthorn, Leslie & Co.

Other prominent members of the shipbuilding and engineering trade who have joined the Controller's department, and who will attend meetings of the Council when matters affecting them are discussed, are:

Major Maurice Denny, Partner of Denny Bros., of Lumberton.

Mr. G. S. F. Edwards, Director of Messrs. Smith's Dock Co. Ltd.

Mr. H. M. Grayson, of Messrs. H. and C. Grayson (Limited).

Major J. W. Hamilton, Chairman of Messrs. W. Hamilton & Co.

Lieut.-Colonel J. Lithgow, Senior Partner of Messrs. Russell & Co., Director of Messrs. Robert, Duncan & Co., and Director of Messrs. Napier & Millar.

Lieut.-Colonel J. Mitchell Moncrieff, M. Inst. C.E.

Mr. Noel E. Peck, Director of Messrs. Barclay, Curle & Co. (Limited), Director of Messrs. Swan, Hunter & Wigham Richardson (Limited), ex-President of the Shipbuilding Employers' Federation, ex-Chairman of the Clyde Shipbuilders' Association.

Mr. W. Rowan Thomson, Senior Partner of Messrs. David Rowan & Co., ex-Chairman of North-West Engineers' Association.

Mr. A. W. Sampson, late Director of Messrs. Fairfield Shipbuilding and Engineering Co.

It will be seen from the foregoing statement (says the Daily Telegraph) that, notwithstanding the resignation of the Shipbuilding Advisory Committee, the patriotic services of its members will not be lost to the Admiralty in their task of grappling with the problems of naval and mercantile ship construction.

The announcement that a number of additional members of the shipbuilding and engineering trade have joined the Controller's Department, and will be able to give their advice at the meetings of the council, is a welcome feature in the new development. They are all connected with firms of great experience in the construction of traders of every type, and their knowledge will be a valuable asset in future deliberations.

There is no doubt that the questions which the Admiralty has to settle are as complex as they are important, and the willingness of these gentlemen to co-operate in their solution cannot fail to be of great assistance to the authorities in their task. The policy of bringing outside expert opinion into close contact with the technical officers of the dockyard and at Whitehall has always been advocated by us as a cardinal principle of efficiency. It has already borne good fruits, and much has been done to relieve the situation created by the submarine war; but we have it on the authority of the First Lord himself that our building has not yet equalled the sinkings, and we have not yet equal our losses, but to amass a surplus. It is in that that the gravity of the situation lies. The demand for tonnage increases as the war proceeds. We have not yet placed our production on a footing to keep pace with much less to overtake this demand. It is, therefore, clear that the resources of the First Lord and his helpers will be taxed to the utmost, and we are happy to be assured that the changes announced in the official statement, far from indicating any check in their efforts, are the result of a patriotic resolution on the part of all concerned to press on with the work that has to be done.

INTERNED GERMANS' INSOLENT LETTERS.

Encouraged by the speeches of pacifist M. P. which they are allowed to read in the English papers, interned Germans as well as enemy prisoners-of-war in England have started a new form of propaganda, (says the Political Correspondent of The Daily Mail). Letters are being received by people in different parts of the country from Germans with whom they have associated before the war in such terms as these:

"Soon we shall have peace, and I hope any difference in our friendship."

"I am looking forward to the time when we shall meet again in the old happy days and resume business relations."

One enterprising German even offers terms for re-establishing a trading connection, and another proposes a deal in foreign stamps.

The letters bear the official censor's stamp at the back, and are distributed by the Postmaster-General free of charge. This fresh evidence of German activity is to be the subject of an official investigation.

MACAO NEWS.

[CONTINUED.]

THE "STUNTS."

The "Stunts" and their orchestra had a splendid reception at Macao. The theatre was crowded, and the audience expressed its appreciation by frequent and prolonged applause. The programme was the same as that submitted at the Club Lusitano, Hongkong, except that the first part was entirely musical and that a Pierrot Dance was introduced in the second part. The "Stunts" and their orchestra acquitted themselves in a most creditable manner, and it must be very gratifying to them to know that the immense success of the performance was due entirely to their efforts and that the Red Cross Fund will benefit thereby to the extent of a few hundred dollars. After the performance, a dance was held at the Club de Macao, in honour of the performers, and was largely attended. H.E. the Governor and Lady Vieira de Matos being amongst those present. It was 4 o'clock in the morning before the party broke up, the unanimous opinion being that it was one of the most pleasant and enjoyable gatherings that has taken place at Macao for a long time.

THE CARNIVAL.

Great preparations are being made for, and the utmost enthusiasm prevails over, the festivities planned for the coming Carnival. Coinciding, as it does, with the China New Year holidays, special efforts are being made this year to make the Carnival a huge attraction to the inhabitants of Macao as well as to the residents of Hongkong and neighbouring places. Lady Vieira de Matos, ever solicitous for the welfare of the soldiers at the front, is organising a Battle of Flowers for Sunday, the 10th February, on behalf of the Red Cross Fund. Everyone subscribing to the fund will be entitled to take part in the Battle of Flowers, and it is hoped that many residents from Hongkong and Canton will go to Macao and help such a deserving cause. At night, the award and distribution of prizes will take place at Government House, which will, of course, be open to every subscriber to the fund. All motor-cars at Macao have already been booked for the occasion, and more are wanted, and if there cannot be had rich and vehicles of other descriptions will be used. Visitors to Macao wishing to take part in the Battle of Flowers would do well to take their own cars with them, and a liberal supply of flowers.

DR. SOARES.

At the dinner offered to the well-known and popular Dr. José Casiano Soares by his many admirers, at the Macao Club, on the night of the 18th inst., about 120 persons sat down to a sumptuous banquet, the Portuguese community of Hongkong as well as the Chinese community of Macao being well represented. Both the dining-hall and the tables were beautifully decorated, this work having been undertaken by the ladies of the committee. During the repast, delightful music was discoursed by an orchestra from Hongkong, which had gone over especially for the occasion. The speakers were Captain Magalhães Correa (Chairman of the Committee) and Mr. de Sousa (the Portuguese Consul at Hongkong), who in the name of the Dinner Committee, and the Portuguese Community of Hongkong, respectively, made special mention of the sterling qualities of the guest of the evening as a physician and surgeon. Dr. Lello also referred to the sterling qualities of the guest of the evening in such an eloquent and brilliant style that it caused a deep impression on everyone present, and the toast was drunk amid deafening cheering. Dr. Soares replied with feelings of deep emotion and thanked everyone present for the great honour they had paid him, saying that he would never forget their expression of sympathy and friendship towards him. After that, the company adjourned to the ball-room, where dancing was indulged in up to about 3 a.m.

CONTINGENT IMPROVEMENTS.

A large committee has been appointed by H.E. the Governor to look into and report upon the improvements required by the Colony. Chief among such improvements will be the water-works, the building of residential quarters for public functionaries, the construction of drains and sewers, hospitals, urban development, the laying out of new roads, etc. It is evidently the Governor's intention to bring Macao up to the level of other modern European cities in the Orient, and His Excellency is to be heartily congratulated upon his initiative, which is undoubtedly in the right direction.

CONSIDERING HIMSELF LUCKY TO HAVE ESCAPED WITH HIS LIFE FROM THE RUSSIAN SHIP MOSCOW.

Lieut. Ognoff, chief officer of the ship, which is controlled by Bolshevik sailors, remained in hiding while sailor committees scoured "Kolchak" with a view to taking him back to the boat before it left for Vladivostok. The Japan Advertiser says: "Through American friends the Russian answered notes sent by the sailors in which apologies were made for the treatment accorded the officer a week ago when he escaped from the Moscow. But Lieut. Ognoff put little faith in the promises of the sailors who had been giving orders to the officers of the boat since her departure from Vladivostok, accompanied by a cargo of Manchurian beans, consigned to the Mitsui Russian Kaisha. He proposed to go to America. The commander of the boat, Captain Lokman, was on board when the ship left Yokohama."

ST. GEORGE'S SOCIETY. ANNUAL MEETING.

ANOTHER DRAWING OF WAR BONDS.

The annual meeting of the Hongkong branch of St. George's Society was held last evening in Messrs. Jardine, Matheson & Co.'s board-room. The president, His Honour Mr. H. H. J. Gompertz, occupied the chair, and other officials present were:—The Hon. Mr. P. H. Holyoak (Vice-President), Mr. N. J. Stabb (Hon. Treasurer), Mr. John Bentley (Hon. Secretary), the Hon. Mr. E. H. Sharp, K.C., Messrs. G. S. Archbutt, C. Bewick, W. H. Bird, W. A. Dowley, H. W. Looker, and M. S. Northcote (Committee).

The CHAIRMAN remarked that the Society had started the new year with 199 members and the names of forty-two new members had since been received. (Cheers.) He hoped that every member would help to swell the list. Only one case for relief came before the Society during the year, and he had heard that that was a typical case. The person assisted was a soldier on the Reserve list. When war was declared he was called up and joined the Worcesters. He was very badly wounded and was invalided out of the Army. He had a brother in India, an old soldier, whom he wished to join. He was coming out to India via Canada, when he became seriously ill and had to enter a hospital in Canada. That exhausted all his available money. When he was discharged from hospital he came on to Hongkong, and applied to the Society for help. A hundred dollars was awarded him and he was given a passage to his destination. Continuing, the chairman said the business of the meeting was to receive suggestions as to the celebration of St. George's Day. They had to elect a general committee and leave it to them to arrange what form the celebration should take. Last year they made about \$23,000, and were able to send a draft of \$20,000 to various war charities. Of that sum \$15,000 were obtained by the sale of badges; \$10,000 from the performances in the theatre and \$6,000 from the fair. It was a question for the committee to decide whether a fair should be held this year or not, because \$6,000 was not a large proportion of the whole amount. They all knew that Kowloon had held a fair similar to that on "Our Day" and had realised \$12,000. Then the St. Andrew's fair, which was run for two days and a night, made \$29,000. Whether or not the fair should be held was a matter for discussion, and the new Committee, which would be formed, would be guided by the result of the discussion. He had received a suggestion from their energetic Vice-President, the Hon. Mr. P. H. Holyoak, who said he saw no reason why there should not be a war bond drawing. A lot of money could be made and prizes would be given. There was plenty of time to begin the scheme. His Excellency, on being approached, kindly sanctioned the proposal and hoped that the scheme would meet with all possible success. The financial Sub-Committee comprising the Hon. Mr. P. H. Holyoak, Mr. N. J. Stabb, Mr. Montague Ede, and Mr. L. N. Lee, had been appointed to take the matter in hand. The winners of the prizes would receive Hongkong war loan bonds, and the Bank had promised to let them have as many as they wanted. The Straits lottery and the lottery held here on "Our Day" gave 60 per cent. as prizes. Their Committee, however, had offered 75 per cent. in prizes. It must be remembered that all the money given in prizes was loaned to the Government for war purposes, and a war bond drawing which offered 75 per cent. of the proceeds in prizes would yield more than one offering only 60 per cent. because more people would be attracted to purchase tickets. The suggestion was to give 50 per cent. as a first prize; 15 per cent. as second, and the balance would make up a number of small prizes. The details, however, he thought, might best be left in the hands of the new Committee. There were two other questions which, strictly speaking, would not be dealt with at that meeting, no notice having been given of them. The new Committee would consider them, and no doubt they would be brought up at the proper time. The first one was the desirability of increasing the number of the present Committee. Seven members were hardly enough for a Society of their size in a place of the dimensions of Hongkong. They wanted a Committee as representative as possible. After the war they might have Societies in England sending them men who had served in the army, and asking the Society to procure jobs for them, etc. He thought the greater the number on the Committee the better they would be able to cope with the work. In his opinion it would be best to increase the number on the Committee to twelve. The Shanghai St. George's Society had eleven members on the Committee. The Hongkong St. George's Society, however, had more members and expected an increase. Why should they not have a bigger Committee? The other question to which he had referred was one which had been discussed last year. He thought that the Society should be affiliated to the Royal St. George's Society in England, which was the parent Society. Mr. Bentley, who had returned from Shanghai, had said that the Society there was affiliated to the parent Society, the being a guinea, which included the subscription to a magazine, containing matters of interest pertaining to the Society. He thought that they should have no hesitation in leaving the matter in the hands of the new Committee. (Cheers.)

The statement of accounts for the past year had been circulated among the members, and on the proposition of the Hon. Mr. E. H. Sharp, seconded by Mr. G. S. Archbutt, those accounts were passed.

election of officers.

The CHAIRMAN proposed that the Hon. Mr. P. H. Holyoak should be elected President. In doing so he said that the idea of a St. George's Society in Hongkong had originated from Mr. Holyoak, who had worked hard on behalf of the Society and would work harder still in its interest.

Mr. C. MONTAGUE EDE seconded, and the proposal was carried unanimously. The Hon. Mr. P. H. Holyoak proposed and the Hon. Mr. E. H. Sharp, K.C., seconded that Mr. N. J. Stabb should be elected Vice-President. This also was carried unanimously.

On the proposition of His Honour Mr. Gompertz, seconded by the Hon. Mr. P. H. Holyoak, Mr. G. Bentley was unanimously re-elected Honorary Secretary, and on the proposition of the Hon. Mr. J. H. Kemp, Mr. J. H. Ramsay was elected Honorary Treasurer.

It was stated that the Hon. Mr. E. H. Sharp, K.C., and Mr. C. Bewick did not wish to stand for re-election as members of the Committee, as they would be away for the greater part of the summer.

The Hon. Mr. SHARP expressed his regret that he would be unable to serve, as reasons of health compelled him to leave the Colony during the hot weather.

The Hon. Mr. P. H. Holyoak, the new chairman, on taking his seat, wished to know whether the members were agreeable to the proposal that there should be twelve members on the committee instead of seven, and if they would give their permission for the rule to be altered accordingly. No objection was raised to the suggestion.

Fourteen names were put forward for the committee, and the election was by ballot. Colonel Chapman, the Rev. V. H. Copple Moyle and the Hon. Mr. E. D. C. Wolfe were appointed scrutineers.

The following seven were declared elected:—Hon. Mr. H. E. Pollock, Mr. C. Montague Ede, Mr. H. W. Bird, Mr. L. N. Lee, Mr. H. R. B. Hancock, Mr. G. S. Archbutt and Mr. W. J. Eldridge. A CALL FOR UNIFIED ACTION. The Hon. Mr. P. H. Holyoak, addressing the gathering, said he wished to thank them all for the high honour done him by electing him president of the St. George's Society, which had already shown such power in the Colony. He also wanted to explain to them an idea arrived at regarding the best way of celebrating St. George's Day. Of course, it must be left to the Committee to deal with the matter, but that meeting was called to receive suggestions as to how the day could be suitably and honourably celebrated. It was obvious that the celebrations must be continued on the same lines as last year and that funds must be raised for the various charities connected with the war. (Cheers.) Their late President had already told them something of the plan for the drawing of war bonds. They would realise from the figures mentioned that it would be no light work, and therefore required the united energy of every member of the Society to make it the triumphant success which he was perfectly certain it would ultimately be. The question of the fair, or partial fair, must also be left to the Committee. One excellent suggestion had already been received, that if the fair was held, something in the nature of a bazaar should be introduced. He thought that scheme had been carried out with great success in Canada. There would be a number of shops, replete with useful articles for sale. He was sure they must all have something in their possession, which they could do without, some article of decoration, or some relic which they felt they could present to the Society for sale. All those articles could be offered at the bazaar, which could be situated near the fair ground; or in a makeshift put up for the purpose. The idea, if worked, would bring in a lot of money to the fair. There was a further suggestion of help by Mr. Sinclair, who was endeavouring to organize another theatre performance in the evening, which it was hoped would be as successful as the one last year in raising funds for a laudable purpose. The idea, he wished to impress most forcibly upon them, however, was that if they wished to celebrate St. George's Day, and desired the celebration to be a success, they must use their united strength and concentrate their energy upon the work of organization in the same way as their brother friends had done recently in connection with disaster day. They proposed to advise the members into various sub-committees, each of which would be given a particular form of work, and by their combined effort they should make the celebration a success it should be. Their object was a laudable one and would appeal to the Colony. The people of Hongkong were ready to help any one who was generous in their giving. In conclusion, Mr. Holyoak thanked their returning president, who had, he said, been very unselfish and very enthusiastic and very energetic in their work of last year. (Cheers.) He then asked for any suggestions which members might care to offer.

Mr. A. H. SKELTON—Can we not send in suggestions afterwards? It is hard to make them on the spur of the moment, the members would like to go home and reflect.

The CHAIRMAN—The Committee will be very pleased to receive them. It was suggested that notices should be introduced on the Sub-Committee, and the Chairman remarked that last year such a proposal was adopted.

A vote of thanks to Messrs. Jardine, Matheson & Co. for the use of their board-room was passed, and the meeting terminated.

SPORT.

HONGKONG CRICKET LEAGUE AVERAGES.

The two highest league scores of the season were made on Saturday—115 (not out) by J. Stalker and 113 (not out) by Commander Gibson. Other good scores were 90 (not out) by Signaller Hack, 75 by H. E. Muriel, 64 by G. E. Marley and 51 (not out) by Ng Sze Kwong. As a result of these big scores there has been a number of important changes in the list. Muriel—who is, perhaps, the most accomplished batsman in the Colony—coming to the head of the averages. Ng Sze Kwong and Stalker both improved their positions, the latter having passed the 400 mark with his total to date. Signaller Hack and G. E. Marley are also in a prominent position.

K. Brayshaw improved his position among the bowlers by taking 6 wickets for 48 runs, and S. S. Crippwell and C.Q.M.S. Roakes, of the R.E., are very much "in the picture" with good averages on Saturday. Crippwell holds a high position in the list and has the distinction of being the first bowler to take 50 wickets this season.

He is closely followed by Un Hew Fan, of the C.R.C., J. S. Graham, and Roakes of Craigengower:—

BATTING AVERAGES.					
	Innings	Not out	Highest score	Total	Average
H. E. Muriel, C.R.C.	8	0	80	372	46.5
E. S. Macaskill, K.C.C.	5	1	70	184	46
T. E. Pearce, H.K.C.C.	9	1	63	352	44
Ng Sze Kwong, C.R.C.	13	4	105*	392	43.55
J. Stalker, K.C.C.	11	1	115*	402	40.2
Sign. Hack, Navy	10	1	90	313	34.77
G. E. Marley, U.C.C.	9	0	64	300	33.33
J. P. Robinson, K.C.C.	10	4	70*	182	30.33
A. H. Rumjhan, U.C.C.	10	1	73	255	28.33
E. W. Hamilton, C.R.C.	8	1	53	187	26.71
K. Brayshaw, U.C.C.	6	1	41	125	25
P. T. Lambie, C.S.C.C.	8	3	37	124	24.8
W. H. Dixon, C.R.C.	8	0	45	195	24.37
M. H. Abbas, C.C.C.	10	1	74	218	24.22
A. A. Claxton, K.C.C.	6	1	56	120	24
D. M. Goodall, C.S.C.C.	9	1	82*	190	23.75
J. S. Graham, C.C.C.	12	3	52	203	22.55
Com. Gibson, Navy	7	1	113*	124	22.33
Capt. Gray, H.K.C.C.	8	0	41	167	20.87
Lieut. Murray, H.K.C.C.	10	0	55	208	20.8

BOWLING AVERAGES.

	O.	R.	W.	A.
E. W. Hamilton, C.S.C.C.	99	230	34	8.78
R. E. O. Bird, C.S.C.C.	61	155	21	7.38
K. Brayshaw, U.C.C.	87	206	29	8.5
Rev. Hastings, Navy	28	76	8	8.5
P. H. Cobb, K.C.C.	128	371	39	9.51
F. H. Redmond, U.C.C.	58	203	30	10.16
Lt. Col. Morgan, H.K.C.C.	75	295	29	10.16
S. S. Crippwell, R.E.	128	534	11	10.47
Com. Gibson, Navy	36	293	27	10.69
G. E. Marley, U.C.C.	109	353	33	10.69
R. Pestonji, K.C.C.	123	380	54	11.17
J. Stalker, K.C.C.	69	227	20	11.35
Gr. Baines, R.G.A.	54	159	14	11.36
Capt. Gray, H.K.C.C.	31	92	8	11.5
T. E. Pearce, H.K.C.C.	24	64	8	11.75
C. Q. M. S. Roakes, R.E.	123	509	43	11.83
J. E. Graham, C.C.C.	159	549	45	12.2
A. C. Mitchell, C.S.C.C.	50	184	15	12.2
Gr. Baines, R.G.A.	65	144	20	12.2
Un Hew Fan, C.R.C.	170	587	47	12.48
D. E. Donnelly, H.K.C.C.	124	527	41	12.85
M. H. Abbas, C.C.C.	55	181	14	12.92
Bdr. Atkinson, R.G.A.	68	277	20	13
A. W. Grimmett, C.C.C.	131	609	58	13.35

GOLF.

ROYAL HONGKONG GOLF CLUB.

WOODHOUSE CUP DRAW.

Mrs. Ram and Mrs. Hastings. Bye.
Mrs. Robertson and Mrs. Pearce. Bye.
Mrs. Arthur and Mrs. Milner-Jones. Bye.
Mrs. Carleton and Mrs. Goodban. Bye.
Mrs. Dyer and Mrs. Wakeman. Bye.
Mrs. Looker and Mrs. Taylor v. Mrs. Hancock and Mrs. Wolfe.
Mrs. Hooper and Mrs. Hale v. Mrs. Wood and Miss Rodger.
Mrs. Carmichael and Mrs. Neighbour v. Mrs. Adams and Mrs. Shenton.
Mrs. Crawford and Mrs. Stewart v. Mrs. Humphreys and Mrs. McKenny.
Mrs. Hewick and Mrs. Wilkinson v. Mrs. Moore and Mrs. Draper.
Mrs. Miller and Mrs. Harley v. Mrs. Kent and Mrs. Nisbet.
Mrs. Manning and Miss Gordon v. Mrs. Ritchie and Miss Ritchie.
Mrs. Leach and Mrs. Bell. Bye.
Lady Rees-Davies and Mrs. Maitland. Bye.
Mrs. Griffin and Mrs. Keigwin. Bye.
Mrs. Anderson and Mrs. Thomas. Bye.
The rounds are to be played off as follows:—1st, by February 10th; 2nd, by February 20th; 3rd, by March 2nd; 4th, by March 11th; Final, by March 23rd.

CHAMPIONSHIP.

In the semi-final Miss Wilkinson beat Mrs. Adams, and Mrs. Manning beat Mrs. J. Rodger, and in the final Miss Wilkinson beat Mrs. Manning.

HONGKONG MAGISTRACY.

AN ASSAULT CASE.

A Chinese charged another with assaulting him at Tai Wong Street.

Complainant said the assault arose out of a slight difference of opinion. As a result, he received a severe gash on the right temple and was in the Government Civil Hospital for a few days.

Defendant denied the offence. Mr. Dyer Ball bound the parties over in a bond of \$50 each to keep the peace for six months.

ATTEMPTED HOUSE-BREAKING AT KOWLOON.

A Chinese was charged with attempting to break into the Dye Works situated in Nathan Road, Kowloon.

Sergeant Tulloch said defendant was arrested by an Indian watchman while attempting to wrench off the wooden bars in front of a window of the works. Several thefts of glass had occurred there lately.

Defendant denied the charge, saying he was resting near the gate. Mr. J. R. Wood remanded the case.

ROBBERY IN LASCAR ROW.

A Chinese pleaded guilty to stealing a watch and a quantity of clothing of the total value of \$13.50, from a house in Lascar Row.

It was stated that defendant gained an entrance to the house by prising up the bolt of the door, and was making away with the stolen articles, when he stumbled. The noise aroused the occupants, who chased the man. He was eventually overtaken by a tukong and arrested.

Mr. Dyer Ball sentenced defendant to three months' hard labour.

INFLUX OF BEGGARS FROM CANTON.

Nine Chinese beggars, who had arrived from Canton, were charged with being stowaways on the s.s. *Kin Shan*.

Acting Inspector Davitt said that none of the defendants had money to pay for the fare. They were arrested on arrival at Hongkong on Saturday. Several other beggars had previously followed the same plan to enter the Colony, and the owners of the steamer had let them off scot-free owing to their circumstances.

Mr. Dyer Ball imposed a fine of \$2 on each defendant, and warned them not to make a further appearance in the Colony.

UNLAWFUL POSSESSION OF OPIUM.

A Chinese woman pleaded guilty to being in unlawful possession of nineteen taels of prepared opium.

Revenue Inspector Lanigan said the opium was found concealed in a specially made waistcoat which defendant was wearing at the time of her arrest.

Defendant declared that she brought the opium from Annam, and was arrested at Sai Wong Wharf.

Mr. J. R. Wood fined defendant \$1,000, with the alternative of six months' hard labour.

THE CONFIDENCE TRICK.

A Chinese cook, living at No. 53, Bonham Strand has reported to the Police that on the 26th instant, while he was on his way to pay some bills with \$63.75 received from his master, he met two men who obtained \$800 in bank-notes, saying it contained \$800 in bank-notes, and asking him to change it for them. The cook undertook to do so, whereupon the men asked him for a guarantee. He unwittingly handed them the \$63.75, obtaining the envelope in exchange. When the men went away he opened the envelope and, to his consternation, found nothing but waste paper in it.

A married woman, living at No. 230, Shanghai Street, has reported that while she was proceeding to Yaumati, on the 27th inst., two men approached her, and producing some bank-notes, asked if she could get them changed. As a guarantee she gave them three gold rings and some other jewellery. Later, she discovered that she had been tricked with worthless paper.

"OUR LITTLE BIT SOCIETY."

The above Society, yesterday, sent to Messrs. Shewan, Tomes & Co., two cases of war comforts, as below, to be forwarded to the Hon. Superintendent, Red Cross Depot, No. 2 Shed, Alexandra Dock, Bombay:—127 roller bandages, 99 flannel vests, 152 suits pyjamas, 10 pairs stretcher socks, 200 pairs mittens, 30 milk covers, 38 sunburns, 64 white woolen caps, 3 quilts, 3 pillows, and 1 lot magazines. In addition 200 woolen mufflers were sent for distribution to local troops.

INTIMATIONS.

ESTABLISHED 1850.

TELEPHONE 1741.



NEW SHIPMENT

JUST RECEIVED.

LANE, CRAWFORD

AND COMPANY.



GE EDISON LAMPS.

Andersen, Meyer & Co., Ltd.,
Sole Agents.
Hotel Mansions. Telephone 1990.

Powell Ltd
TELEPHONE 346

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SMART
GOWNS

FOR THE
RACES

AT
REASONABLE PRICES.

CANTON—C.M.B. GIRLS' BOARDING AND DAY SCHOOL.

ST. HILDA'S—East Parade Ground.
Principal—Miss BENDELACK, M.A.
Dip. Ed. School Re-opens January 10th, 1918.
Thorough English and Chinese Education.
Fees moderate.

STRAITS MERCHANT SERVICE GUILD.

DISPENSARY Buildings, Raffles Place Singapore, are HONORARY AGENTS of the IMPERIAL MERCHANT SERVICE GUILD, where subscription are received, new members are enrolled and all members are welcomed as Visitors during their stay in port.

NEW ADVERTISEMENTS

WANTED.

COMPETENT BRITISH BOOKKEEPER required. Apply, stating experience and giving copies of Testimonials. Good salary to capable man.
Box No. 1,
Care of "Daily Press" Office.
[1561]

NOTICE.

THE HONGKONG & CHINA GAS CO. begs to notify its Consumers and the Public that, owing to the DEARLY INCREASED COST of obtaining its necessities, particularly Coal, it has no option but to increase the Price of Gas by 50 Cents per 1,000 cubic feet, making the Price \$2.80 per 1,000 cubic feet, dating from the 1st February, 1918.
By Order of the Board of Directors,
GEORGE CURRY,
Local Secretary,
Hongkong, 28th January, 1918. [1562]

NOTICE.

WILL the Lady who took the LONG GREY SQUIRREL FUR in mistake from the Ladies' Cloak Room of the R.E. Theatre on Friday last kindly return same to the Hon. Secretary, R.E. ENTERTAINMENT CLUB, Wellington Barracks? [1567]

BILLIARD CHAMPIONSHIP OF THE COLONY.

(Under the Auspices of the V.R.C.)

Preliminary Games ... 250.
Semi-Finals ... 500.
Final ... 1000.
All games to be played at the V.R.C. Winner of the competition to meet Scott W. Fyfe in a game of 1000 up.
Entrance fee ... \$2.
Patrons close to Mr. R. C. WICKHAM, Hon. Secretary of the V.R.C., on the 31st inst.
Prizes:—Championship Cup, Winner of Competition, Runner-Up, and for the Highest Break. [1548]

UNION WATERBOAT CO., LTD.

NOTICE TO SHAREHOLDERS.

THE THIRTIETH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF SHAREHOLDERS will be held in the Offices of Messrs. DODWELL & CO., LIMITED, on TUESDAY, the 5th February, 1918, at 11.30 A.M., for the purpose of receiving the Report of the General Managers together with a Statement of Accounts to 31st December, 1917.
The TRANSFER BOOKS of the Company will be CLOSED from the 30th January to 5th February, 1918, both dates inclusive.
DODWELL & COMPANY, LTD.,
General Managers,
Hongkong, 26th January, 1918. [1561]

HUMPHREYS ESTATE AND FINANCE CO., LTD.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the ORDINARY ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF SHAREHOLDERS in this Company will be held at the Hongkong Hotel, Hongkong, on SATURDAY, the 9th February, 1918, at 11.30 A.M., for the purpose of receiving the Reports of the Directors together with a Statement of Accounts for the year ending 31st December, 1917.
The TRANSFER BOOKS of the Company will be CLOSED from the 4th February to the 14th February (both dates inclusive), during which period no Transfer of shares can be Registered.
JOHN D. HUMPHREYS & SON,
General Managers,
Hongkong, 26th January, 1918. [1565]

DAIRY FARM NEWS.

POULTRY.

OUR HOUSE-FED.

CAPONS

AND

CHICKENS

ARE THE BEST IN THE EAST.

Tender Eating, Delicate Flavour.
TRY THEM.
[1563]

FOR SALE.

Asiatic, Foreign and Colonial
POSTAGE STAMPS
and all kinds of
PHILATELIC GOODS.
GRACA & CO.
No. 4, WYNDHAM STREET,
HONGKONG
[1558]

INTIMATIONS

THE WEST POINT BUILDING CO., LIMITED.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the THIRTIETH ORDINARY MEETING OF SHAREHOLDERS in this Company will be held at the Office of Messrs. JARDINE, MATHESON & COMPANY, LIMITED, TO-DAY (TUESDAY), 29th January, 1918, at 11.30 A.M., for the purpose of receiving the Report of the Directors together with a Statement of Accounts for the year ending 31st December, 1917.
The REGISTER of SHARES of the Company will be CLOSED from SATURDAY, 19th, to TUESDAY, 29th January, 1918 (both days inclusive), during which period no Transfer of Shares can be Registered.
By Order of the Board of Directors,
A. SHELTON HOOVER,
Secretary to the
HONGKONG LAND INVESTMENT & AGENCY CO., LTD.,
General Agents for the
West Point Building Co., Ltd.,
Hongkong, 11th January, 1918. [1567]

THE HONGKONG CENTRAL ESTATE, LIMITED.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the THIRTIETH ORDINARY MEETING OF SHAREHOLDERS in this Company will be held at the Office of Messrs. JARDINE, MATHESON & COMPANY, LIMITED, TO-DAY (TUESDAY), 29th January, 1918, at 11.45 A.M., for the purpose of receiving the Report of the Directors together with the Statement of Accounts for the year ending 31st December, 1917.
The REGISTER of SHARES of the Company will be CLOSED from SATURDAY, 19th, to TUESDAY, 29th January, 1918 (both days inclusive), during which period no Transfer of Shares can be Registered.
By Order of the Board of Directors,
THE HONGKONG CENTRAL ESTATE, LIMITED,
A. SHELTON HOOVER,
Secretary to
THE GENERAL MANAGERS,
Hongkong, 11th January, 1918. [1568]

THE HONGKONG LAND INVESTMENT & AGENCY CO., LTD.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the THIRTIETH ORDINARY MEETING OF SHAREHOLDERS in this Company will be held at the Office of Messrs. JARDINE, MATHESON & COMPANY, LIMITED, TO-DAY (TUESDAY), 29th January, 1918, at 11.30 A.M., for the purpose of receiving the Report of the Directors together with the Statement of Accounts for the year ending 31st December, 1917.
The REGISTER of SHARES of the Company will be CLOSED from SATURDAY, 19th, to TUESDAY, 29th January, 1918 (both days inclusive), during which period no Transfer of Shares can be Registered.
By Order of the Board of Directors,
A. SHELTON HOOVER,
Secretary,
Hongkong, 11th January, 1918. [1569]

THE HONGKONG LAND RECLAMATION CO., LTD.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the SEVENTEENTH ORDINARY MEETING OF SHAREHOLDERS in this Company will be held at the Office of Messrs. JARDINE, MATHESON & COMPANY, LIMITED, TO-DAY (TUESDAY), 29th January, 1918, at 12.15 P.M., for the purpose of receiving the Report of the Directors together with the Statement of Accounts for the year ending 31st December, 1917.
The REGISTER of SHARES of the Company will be CLOSED from SATURDAY, 19th, to TUESDAY, 29th January, 1918 (both days inclusive), during which period no Transfer of Shares can be Registered.
By Order of the Board of Directors,
MOWBRAY S. NORTHCOTE,
Secretary,
Hongkong, 11th January, 1918. [1570]

HONGKONG, CANTON AND MACAO STEAMBOAT CO., LTD.

NOTICE TO SHAREHOLDERS.

THE NINETEENTH ORDINARY MEETING OF SHAREHOLDERS in this Company will be held at the Office of the Company, Hotel Mansions, on TUESDAY, the 19th February, 1918, at 12 o'clock Noon, for the purpose of receiving a Report of the Directors together with a Statement of Accounts, declaring a Dividend and electing Directors and Auditors.
The TRANSFER BOOKS of the Company will be CLOSED from the 4th to 19th February, 1918, both dates inclusive.
By Order of the Board of Directors,
JOHN ARNOLD,
Acting Secretary,
Hongkong, 21st January, 1918. [1553]

NOTICE.

A. S. WATSON & CO., LTD.

ONE CERTIFICATE for One Hundred Shares Nos. 20241 to 20340 inclusive, in this Company, standing in the name of Mr. HECTOR V. PEREIRA, has been LOST; and if at the expiration of one month from the date hereof the above Certificate be not forthcoming, another Certificate for the said Shares will be issued by the Company, and thereafter no other will be acknowledged.
A. S. WATSON & CO., LTD.,
Hongkong, 18th January 1918. [1530]

NOTICE.

THE CHINA FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED.

THE CERTIFICATE No. 421 for Twenty Shares Nos. 12033/12035 in this Company registered in the name of WILLIAM AUGUSTUS PANGLOSS MARTIN, has been LOST; and if at the expiration of one month from the date hereof the above Certificate be not forthcoming, another Certificate for the said Shares will be issued by the Company and thereafter no other will be acknowledged.
C. MONTAGUE EDE,
General Manager,
Hongkong, 1st January, 1918. [1541]

INTIMATION

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TABACOS DE FILIPINAS

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\$3.00 per 100

A FIRST-CLASS CHEROOT

AT A CHEAP PRICE

A. S. WATSON & CO., LTD.,

CIGAR MERCHANTS,

TELEPHONE 616.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT.

MRS. MORTIMER O'SULLIVAN and Mrs. CLARKE beg to tender their heartfelt thanks for the numerous letters of sympathy they have received in their recent terrible bereavement. Also to the whole community for the magnificent tribute of respect shown at the funeral of their late beloved husband.
[1560]

Hongkong Office: 10A, DES VEAUX ROAD, C.
LONDON Office: 131, FLEET STREET, E.C.

The Daily Press.

HONGKONG, 29th JANUARY, 1918

GERMANY'S CLAIM TO ALSACE-LORRAINE.

We referred briefly yesterday to Count Hertling's reply to President Wilson's demand that Germany should right the wrong she did to France in 1870 by annexing Alsace-Lorraine. We propose now to examine in greater detail the Imperial Chancellor's contention that "When we in 1870 demanded the transfer of land wrong from us in a criminal way, it was no conquest of alien territory, but what to-day is called dis-annexation." In what sense were the provinces ever German territory? The German case, like that of Louis XIV., begins with CHARLEMAGNE—because to the one he was a German Emperor and to the other a French King. One claim is as good or as bad as the other, for in those days there was neither a German Emperor nor a French King. CHARLEMAGNE was ruler of a huge spear-won territory; and, as such, he purported to revive in his own person the Roman Empire of the West; and treated himself, and was treated, as the successor of AUGUSTUS and CONSTANTINE. But if we are to go back to 800 A.D., why should we stop there? Why not go back to JULIUS CAESAR, when the Rhine was the undisputed boundary between Gaul and Germany? Why not go back to the third century B.C., when much of what is now South Germany, and the Danube down to Belgrade, were held by Gallic tribes? We can trace what is now Alsace-Lorraine as Gallic for some seven centuries, and an indefinite time previously; it was wrested from the Gauls (or Gallo-Romans) by Germanic tribes in the Migration. Ancient history is a

two-edged weapon; and the appeal to it to support the contention that the French took German territory is worth just as much as would be an appeal to it to support the contention that the Germans originally took French territory; that is, it is worth nothing at all. The Empire was elective, and under CHARLEMAGNE's successors sometimes the "German" and sometimes the "French" ruler was Emperor. From 1493 the Hapsburgs were chosen Emperors. The acquisition by France of Alsace and Lorraine was, therefore, an incident of the long dual between France and Austria in the 17th and 18th centuries. France was in possession of Alsace when she went to the negotiations at Munster which led in 1718 to the peace of Westphalia. The 18th century was well advanced when the Duchy of Lorraine became French. After the war of the Polish succession, the French Minister, Cardinal Fleury, in 1738 arranged terms between France and the Emperor CHARLES VI., on the basis that Lorraine should be ceded to France, and the Duke of Lorraine should receive in exchange the Duchy of Tuscany. The exchange was confirmed at the peace of Vienna, 1738; Stanislaus, who had been Louis XV.'s candidate for the House of Poland, became Duke of Lorraine for life, with reversion to France; and the reversion fell in on Stanislaus' death in 1768. This is what the Germans call, the "wresting of Lorraine by Louis XIV. from its German motherland in time of peace." The French acquisition of Alsace-Lorraine, as we have seen, affected the House of Hapsburg and affected the Holy Roman Empire. That Empire was extinguished in 1806; and the modern German Empire, created in 1871, has no connection with that Empire and is not heir of its claims. Consequently, the claim to Alsace-Lorraine made by the German Empire to-day, so far as it is based on the histories of the Holy Roman Empire and of the House of Hapsburg, is, historically and legally, sheer nonsense.

The real title of France to the two provinces, however, dates from 1790. The people of Alsace heartily supported the unification of the national territory carried out in that year. *Societes des maitres de la constitution* were formed in Strassburg and every town, and resolutions poured in upon the Constituent Assembly. We quote the most important. On March 18th, on the occasion of the installation of new municipal authorities, the people of Strassburg met in the principal square and passed the following resolution:—"In this square, where our fathers gave themselves to France only with regret, we have come together to cement with our oaths our union with her. We have sworn and we swear to give the last drop of our blood to defend the Constitution. If the town of Strassburg has not had the glory of being the first to set an example to the towns of the Kingdom, she shall at least have that of being, through the energetic patriotism of her inhabitants, one of the strongest bulwarks of French liberty." A question, however, arose over the Alsatian feudatories. France was abolishing feudalism; could she deprive the Alsatian landowners of feudal rights recognised by the Treaty of Munster? The various princelets and knights of the Empire concerned sent a protest to the French Government (February, 1790) and on April 28th the Constituent Assembly decided that indemnities should be paid to the complainants for the loss of their feudal rights. The complainants refused this, and their appeal was referred to the Feudal Committee, which reported that the unity of France and Alsace rested on the unanimous decision of the people of Alsace, and that ancient treaties and the stipulations of their former rulers could no longer bind a free people. The complainants then appealed to the Powers and war followed. When NAPOLEON fell and the Congress of the Powers met at Vienna to settle the map of Europe, Alsace-Lorraine, of course, came in question. Russia and Britain, at first inclined to favour Prussia, were gradually worked into an attitude of hostility to the Prussian preclusions; it was even more important that Austria ultimately took the same course. In vain did German memorialists, like the Countess PRINCESS of Wurtemberg, declare that conquest should be undone by conquest. The Congress slowly groped its way to two principles—that the Allies had conquered NAPOLEON, not France; and that the

just boundaries for France were those of 1790. France, therefore, retained the provinces.

In 1870 Prussia went to war with a boundary map of the provinces ready prepared for the intended annexation. It was not conquest that was to be undone by conquest; it was the will of the people concerned, as expressed in the resolutions of 1790. The elected representatives of the two provinces, headed by GAMBER, left this in no doubt; it appears plainly in the declaration which they unanimously made to the National Assembly on 16th February, 1871, when France saw herself compelled to make peace. They declared that Alsace and Lorraine did not desire to be transferred, and that all—both citizens and soldiers—proclaimed by their votes and their weapons, to Germany and the world, the immovable will of the two provinces to remain French soil. They called on the civilised nations not to allow them to be abandoned to their enemies; otherwise, these nations might, in their turn, become victims of the aggression which they had tolerated—a prophecy literally fulfilled to-day. The declaration closed with the words:—"We proclaim that the right of the people of Alsace and Lorraine to remain members of the French nation is for ever inviolable; and we swear, both for ourselves and our constituents, our children, and their descendants, to vindicate it for ever by all means and against all usurpers." This was the last expression of the free opinion of the provinces, sealed with their blood, and this is why the idea of a plebiscite finds no favour in France. It is not that there is any doubt about the result, in spite of German immigration; it is that the provinces have twice unanimously pronounced for France, in 1790 and in 1871, and that should be sufficient. A plebiscite might seem to constitute an admission that this was not sufficient; it might look as though there were some truth in the German claim that in 1871 conquest had been undone by conquest, whereas, in truth, it was conquest which had overridden the will of the people.

There is a radical difference in the line taken to-day by the propaganda in France and Germany. The French say: "The people at heart are part of France"; the Germans reply: "The provinces are German by language, ancestry and history"—they do not add: "The people at heart are part of Germany." Now nationality is a matter of feeling, not of language or ancestry, and if the fact that Alsace (not Lorraine) largely speaks German were an argument, Switzerland, Belgium and the United States would have no right to exist. The talk about "old German territory" was genuine in 1815; to-day it is merely a blind. What Germany will fight for to the end is the iron mines of Lorraine and the potash deposits of Alsace. Without the Lorraine mines, which yield two-thirds of all the German ore, Germany could not have made her attempt to conquer Europe; without them, she knows she can never repeat the performance. So the will of a people is to be brought to nothing in order that German iron magnates may grow fat and scheme for future wars of aggression. The disannexation of Alsace-Lorraine would be the greatest of all guarantees for peace.

Some Germans realise that they have no hope of retaining these "German" provinces except by force; the "German" populations will not have them. Lorraine is so indisputably French that it hardly comes in question; but German admissions as to Alsace are interesting. It is well known that down to 1890 the Reichstag elections in Alsace always resulted in the election of *protestataires*—a protest against the annexation. It is also well known that many Alsatians have left their country and settled in France, while many Germans—by 1910 about 300,000—have taken their places; and that every possible method has been employed to Germanise the country. It has made no difference. So good an old server as the Swedish socialist leader, M. BRANTING, who knows the provinces, has recently stated that he believes from his evidence that on a plebiscite there would be a great majority for France. The reason is that a new movement has grown up in Alsace; "protesting" has ceased, but the people, driven to rely on themselves, have set to work to keep alive the flame of *Vitalité française*. In order that the current setting toward France might not be unopposed, a pro-German association was formed, the *Elasse-Lorraineische Vereinigung*. "What a shameful thing," comments LUTHER, "that this should be necessary in a German land." The "necessity" shows how far that land is from being "German."

During the week ended the 26th inst. there were reported in the Colony 4 cases of diphtheria (all of them fatal) and 3 cases of enteric fever (one of which proved fatal).

The weekly religious meeting of the Helena May Institute this afternoon at 5.30 o'clock will be conducted by the Rev. J. K. Macdonald, who will give the third of a series on "Teachings of Christ with regard to daily life." The meeting is open to all women.

Chinese Detective No. 184, Wong Kau, died suddenly on Sunday at his house No. 208 Wa Lane. The deceased, it is stated, returned home after duty and complained to his wife that he was feeling very cold. A medical man was sent for, but death ensued before his arrival. A *post-mortem* examination has not revealed any suspicious symptoms.

The Yauk Chi Girls' School, of 9, Arbuthnot Road, celebrated its tenth anniversary on Sunday. The parents of the pupils were shown round and were impressed by the progress of the institution. When the school was founded it had only ten pupils on its roll; to-day there are 150 children. Sixteen scholars received their certificates, while prizes were distributed by the Head Mistress.

A cheque for \$200.25 has been received by the war charities Fund from "Quarry Bay Children" through Mrs. Mitchell for the credit for the British Red Cross Fund. The money represents part of the proceeds of a children's play entitled, "Cissie in Toyland," given on Christmas Eve, 1917, and January 18th, 1918. Mr. Edgar Warwick has forwarded a sum of \$63.15 to the War Charities for the Red Cross Fund, a percentage of the gross receipts for the "Court Cards" during their short season in the Colony just completed.

The Hon. Mr. Thomas Sammons, American Consul-General, has received a telegram from the State Department to the effect that forms for American income-tax returns for 1917 will be forwarded from Washington as soon as issued. American residents in China are asked to note that in order to avail themselves of the additional 30 days allowed by law they should request such extension by letter to the Collector of Internal Revenue in their home district, such letter to reach the Collector before March 1st.

THE GRESSON STREET BATTLE.

INJURED DESPERADO SUCCUMBS.

It is reported that one of the desperados who was wounded in the Gresson Street battle with the Police died on Sunday afternoon at the Government Civil Hospital. The dead robber is the man who kept the Police at bay till the very last, when he shot himself after a bomb had been thrown at him.

ONE OF THE RUSSIAN LEADERS.

MR. JOHN MCLEAN.

A correspondent writes:—"Mr. John McLean, the Hon. President of the Congress of the Soviets, is a master of arts of Glasgow University. He is a trained teacher of first class reputation, who taught in Kinning Park Public School, under the Govan School Board. He was of Fabian tendencies and used to speak on Glasgow Green on socialistic subjects and labour problems. During the second year of the war he was arrested in Glasgow, found guilty and sentenced to a term of imprisonment for offences against the Defence of the Realm Act. He was an anti-conscriptionist and incited Labour to revolt against the war by means of strikes."

ST. STEPHEN'S GIRLS' COLLEGE.

Certificates gained by scholars from this College at the Hongkong University Local Examinations for 1917, were distributed yesterday on the eve of closing for the New Year holidays, by Mr. Lander. The following were the successful candidates: Kwok Sheung Man, Ho Mo Yu, Chong Kam Yuet and Li King Yung, all Senior certificates; Pearl Bew, Lo Mo Yuen and Sim Hong Kheung, Junior certificates. Opportunity was also taken to present the two scholarships, kindly offered by the Hon. Mr. Ho Fook and Mr. Lo Cheung Shui, awarded on the results of the above examinations, to Kwok Sheung Man (Senior Scholarship) and Pearl Bew (Junior Scholarship). In future years, by consent of the donors, two silver challenge cups will be presented annually instead of the scholarships. It is proposed to hold Speech Day at the close of the Summer Term instead of at Chinese New Year.

THE WAR.

AVIATION ON WESTERN FRONT.

RUSO-ROUMANIAN ENGAGEMENT.

DEBATE IN THE REICHSTAG.

SOCIALIST'S WARNING.

AMERICA AND FOOD ECONOMY.

TO HELP THE ALLIES.

Franco-Belgian front

LATEST CABLES.

[THROUGH REUTER'S AGENCY.]

BRITISH FRONT.

HOSTILE ARTILLERY ACTIVE.

LONDON, January 27th.

Field-Marshal Sir Douglas Haig reports:—There was hostile artillery firing in the neighbourhood of Ribecourt and south-westward of Cambrai.

ENEMY PARTY DISPERSED.

Field-Marshal Sir Douglas Haig reports:—We dispersed by fire an enemy party approaching our lines southward of Lens.

EARLIER CABLES.

AVIATION

LONDON, January 27th.

Field-Marshal Sir Douglas Haig reports:—Our aeroplanes bombed large railway sidings at Courtrai, and billets at Roulers.

There was hard fighting all along the line, which was greatly in our favour. We brought down ten and drove down six enemy machines.

One of our machines is missing. Our night-fliers last night dropped eight tons of bombs on five large aerodromes in the neighbourhood of Ghent and billets in the vicinity of Douai.

We dropped 100 bombs on a new aerodrome, westward of Tournai. All our machines returned.

LATEST CABLES.

LATER.

Field-Marshal Sir Douglas Haig reports:—An anti-aircraft gun shot down one enemy machine.

We bombed the railway station and communications at Treves at mid-day. All our machines returned.

Aerial Activities.

LATEST CABLES.

[THROUGH REUTER'S AGENCY.]

OPERATIONS AT THE DARDANELLES.

LONDON, January 28th.

A wireless Turkish official report states:—Lively aerial activity at the Dardanelles and our land fire compelled two enemy warships and a mine-sweeper to retreat. The latter was hit three times.

The Near East.

LATEST CABLES.

[THROUGH REUTER'S AGENCY.]

THE PALESTINE CAMPAIGN.

TURKISH REPORT.

LONDON, January 27th.

A Turkish communiqué states:—We rectified our lines in Palestine, advancing them two kilometres.

General.

LATEST CABLES.

[THROUGH REUTER'S AGENCY.]

GREAT BRITAIN GRANTS COMPENSATION.

THE HAGUE, January 27th.

It is announced that Great Britain has paid £2,976 guilders as compensation for the material damage caused by the bombing of Goertrize on April 29th, 1916, by British aeroplanes.

CENTRALITES RETURN TO BRESTLITOVSK.

AMSTERDAM, January 27th.

The German papers announce that Count Czernin and Baron Kuehlmann return to Brestlitovsk to-day.

RUSSIAN AFFAIRS.

RUSSIANS AND ROUMANIANS FIGHTING.

PETROGRAD, January 27th.

Serious fighting is reported from Brestlitovsk between the Russians and Roumanians on January 20th in the vicinity of Galatz.

The Ninth and a portion of the Tenth Siberian Divisions attempted to break through in order to regain Russian territory, whence they were cut off by the Roumanians.

Heavy artillery, also monitors on the Danube, were engaged in the attempts, which so far have failed.

FIGHTING CONTINUES.

INDEPENDENCE OF UKRAINE PROCLAIMED.

PETROGRAD, January 27th.

The Ukrainian Rada by 308 votes to four proclaimed the complete independence of the Ukrainian Republic.

The proclamation declares that Ukraine wishes friendship with Roumania and Turkey and other neighbouring Powers, that it will support no war desires, and that the Ukrainian peoples desire peace as soon as possible.

RED AND WHITE GUARDS.

The fighting between the Red Guards and the White Guards has become intense at Viborg. The latter are drawn from the educated classes and the former from the soldiers.

FINNISH SENATE BROKEN UP.

A sitting of the Finnish Senate, which sent an ultimatum to Russia regarding the excesses by the soldiers, was broken up by the Socialists, who were supported by the fleet.

TO CONFISCATE PROPERTY OF THE RICH.

A telegram from Odessa states that a Military Revolutionary Committee has been formed. The committee announces its intention of confiscating the property of the rich, and also deposits in the banks and in private safes for the benefit of the unemployed.

RIVAL TO THE RADA.

An official telegram from Brestlitovsk states that the representatives of the Ukrainian Soviets have established Kharkoff as a rival to the Ukrainian Rada established at Kiev, and have informed the Bolshevik representatives that the Rada does not represent the Ukrainian people, but only the Government of Kiev. Tchernikoff, and part of Kursk, whereas the Soviets control Kharkoff, Ekaterinoslav, Kherson, and the basin of Donets to the Black Sea.

It is impossible for the Rada to supply anyone with wheat, because the Soviets control the wheat-growing governments and means of communication.

The representatives of the Soviets will confer in the peace negotiations as a part of the Russian Delegation, and they repudiate the treachery of the Rada in attempting a separate peace with the Central Powers.

The President of the Russian Delegation replied, agreeing to discuss a common peace with the Ukraine Soviets as a part of the Russian Delegation.

EARLIER CABLES.

PETROGRAD POPULACE STARVING.

PETROGRAD, January 27th. Owing to the peasants refusing to sell grain for the depreciated paper roubles, the closing of the Ukrainian and other granaries, and the disorganization of transport, the inhabitants of Petrograd, including many thousands of undisciplined soldiers, will shortly be faced with starvation.

CIVIL WAR IN FINLAND.

It appears that civil war is spreading to Finland, where Russian soldiers and sailors are apparently co-operating with the Finnish Red Guards.

MAXIMALISTS CLAIM SUCCESSES.

The Maximalists claim successes at various places in South Russia, notably at Sevastopol, where it is reported that the Naval forces sided with the Soviets and the Rada, but were dispersed.

POLISH LEGION'S SUCCESSES.

Owing to the Maximalists arresting the leaders of the Polish military organisations the Polish Legionaries occupied several railway stations in the government of Moghileff and disarmed the Russian garrisons.

NAVAL DECREE.

A decree has been issued providing that the personnel of the navy shall consist of citizens, all having the same rights. Every sailor is to be entitled to belong to any political party and to profess openly his views.

The entire commanding personnel will be elected by universal suffrage.

LATEST CABLES.

REICHSTAG DEBATE.

AMSTERDAM, January 27th.

In the debate in the Reichstag following Count Hertling's speech, a member said:—The boast in 1916 that the U-boats would give victory in six months has proved empty.

The most visible effect of submarineism has been the entry of America into the war. Now, marvellous stories are being circulated about the coming great offensive, but supposing Paris and Calais were taken, we would still have to fight America. General Hoffmann's speech at Brestlitovsk has kindled a strike movement in Austria. Not a single cry has been heard in Vienna against the Austrian Emperor, but the Kaiser is openly insulted there. These Pan-Germans would make Germany lose her last friend.

Herr Schiedemann warned the Government that if it did not rid itself of such patriots and did not secure peace with Russia, it would be hurled from power, so serious was the feeling of the people at the prospect of new bloodshed in the spring.

AMERICA AND THE WAR.

FOOD ECONOMY ORDER.

WASHINGTON, January 27th.

President Wilson in a Proclamation exhorts the greatest food economy in order to increase shipments overseas to the Allies, whose subsistence is largely dependent upon the United States.

The President appeals for a reduction of 30 per cent. in the consumption of wheat and wheat products. Mondays and Wednesdays should be observed as wheatless days, and one meal daily should be wheatless. Tuesday should be a meatless day and one meal daily should be meatless. Saturdays should be porkless, and a continued economy in the use of sugar is urged till later in the year.

NEW CABINET FOR HUNGARY.

LONDON, January 27th.

A new Hungarian Cabinet has been formed, with Herr Wekerle as Premier. A Budapest telegram states that the King has sanctioned the new Government programme, comprising the formation of a National Hungarian Army and the drawing up of a new Austro-Hungarian Commercial Treaty.

THE SILVER MARKET.

Silver is quoted 43d., and the market is very quiet.

EXPLOSIVES FOR IRELAND.

I learn on the most trustworthy authority that the Belfast police forces have just discovered a plot to smuggle high explosives into Ireland from Glasgow (wrote the Daily Telegraph's Dublin Correspondent last month). On the morning of Sunday, November 25th, two boys, said to belong to a Dublin detachment of Sinn Féin Boy Scouts, landed at Belfast from Ardrossan, carrying between them a pretty heavy portmanteau. The police followed them to their destination, and on examining the portmanteau found that it contained enough high explosives to destroy a street, if not a greater part of a city. It is understood that an arrest with a good deal of importance is attached has been made in Glasgow. Further, it is stated that one of the Boy Scouts was carrying despatches, which were fastened in the lining of his coat.

CHINESE TELEGRAMS.

[FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.]

PEKING CENTRAL HOSPITAL OPENED.

PEKING, January 27th.

The Peking Central Hospital, designed to be a National Institution, was opened this morning. A tablet and message were received from the President and also from the Minister for Foreign Affairs. The Hospital is scientifically planned and equipped.

MORE PLAGUE AMONGST THE TROOPS.

Reports from Fengchen state that there have been four more deaths among the soldiers from plague. Quarantine is being established and foreign medical experts are coming in to assist the Government.

THE PRESIDENT'S DEPARTURE.

The President's departure, which creates a precedent, is the sole topic of conversation.

The city was somewhat panicky last night, but is quiet to-day. Trouble is not expected.

[BY COURTESY OF THE "CHUNG NGOI SAN PO."]

THE PRESIDENT'S JOURNEY TO NANKING.

PEKING, January 28th.

The President arrived at Tientsin on the 26th inst., and left the following morning at 5 o'clock. He reached Tsinan at 12 noon and left the same afternoon for Pongpoo. He is now at Wuchang and will shortly continue his journey to Nanking.

The President invited the members of a special senate of a meeting and then gave them his reasons for leaving the Capital and urged them to revise the system of Parliament.

[THROUGH REUTER'S AGENCY.]

PLAGUE INSIDE THE GREAT WALL.

PEKING, January 28th.

The plague has spread inside the Great Wall towards Taiyuanfu, but the Authorities are now more active with preventive measures.

It is hoped that the outbreak will soon be controlled.

CANTON NEWS.

[BY COURTESY OF THE "CHUNG NGOI SAN PO."]

CANTON, January 28th.

LEADERS KILLED IN ACTION.

During the battle in Fa-chow on the 18th inst. the leader Nung Yau-hing, who came from Kwong-si, was killed. The leader of King-Wai troops, Sing Kwok-hok, was murdered by deserters after he had been defeated by General Lung's troops.

It is also reported that Cheung Hong-ching, Chief Adviser to the late Commissioner Lung Sai-chu, was wounded, and is missing. We are informed that General Lung has given \$5,000 to his troops as a reward for killing the above leaders.

ARMY SENT AGAINST LUNG.

As General Lung's troops have entered the province the Tsuchun has sent a strong force against him. We learn that over 44 regiments were sent from Canton.

GENERAL LUK'S MOVEMENT.

A message from Nanning states that General Luk Wing-ting has gone to Lung-chow. General Luk has recruited three regiments of new soldiers for his body-guards.

YANG PING DESIGNED.

Commander Lam-Fu has reported to the Tsuchun that he attacked the Yan Ping district on the 24th inst. General Lung's troops were defeated and compelled to retreat into the district city after losing a number of machine-guns. The city is now besieged by Lam's troops.

SKIPPER'S HUGE PROFITS.

It was reported to the North-Eastern Sea Fisheries Committee at York, recently, that a Hull skipper has earned over £25,000 since the war began. Another has made £15,000 in two years, and the balance-sheet of a firm of trawler owners shows that one skipper has been paid £5,000 during one year. The report added that skippers had earned all they received when the perils of the North Sea were remembered.

RECORD OPIUM CASE.

JUDGMENT RESERVED.

The record million dollar opium case, which has occupied the attention of Mr. Justice Gompertz for well over a hundred days, concluded yesterday with the arguments of Mr. F. C. Jenkins and Mr. C. G. Alabaster.

The Attorney-General, on behalf of the Crown, said that it was the desire of the Crown not to assist the plaintiff financially, but to assure him that the issues of fraud would be properly tried, and that the decision would rest on the merits of the case, which, whichever side the truth lay, the Crown would not be prepared to offer any legal and technical arguments which would be open to a plaintiff who is financing himself.

Mr. H. E. Pollock, K.C. on behalf of the plaintiff, agreed that the Court would not be troubled with legal arguments.

Mr. Jenkins concluded his address, which lasted a considerable time.

The plaintiff in the case is Mr. Nisbet (Registrar of the Court) and the defendants are Leo Hysan, Ma Che Lung and Po Yung.

Judgment was reserved, but it is not expected to be delivered within a month.

ST. JOHN'S CATHEDRAL.

ANNUAL MEETING OF SEAT HOLDERS AND SUBSCRIBERS.

The annual meeting of the seat-holders and subscribers of St. John's Cathedral will be held to-day in the Chamber of Commerce Room, City Hall, at 5.30 p.m. The meeting will consider the following resolutions:—

- That the income of the Endowment Fund (which amounted last year to \$900) be applied to general expenses in future.
 - That the sum of \$134.48, received from the National Mission, be applied towards the completion of the screen of the side chapel.
 - That all seats in the Cathedral shall be unreserved five minutes before each Sunday morning service.
 - That all seats shall be free at each Sunday evening service.
- The General Fund shows that the year opened with a debit of \$67.07 and closed with a balance in hand of \$190.32. During the year special collections amounted to \$2,505.85.
- The Cathedral Organ Fund shows that, after paying \$4,000 on account of building and improvements to Messrs. W. C. Blackett & Co., there is a balance of \$1,890.91.

LABOUR AFTER WAR.

RAILWAYMEN'S PROPOSALS.

The National Conference of Railwaymen at Leicester recently discussed the problem of reconstruction after the war. With reference to the men's national programme, the conference decided to include proposals for a share in the control and administration of railways, a forty-eight hours working week, a substantial increase in wages, and payment for overtime for all grades.

Mr. J. H. Thomas, M.P., said, with respect to the economic position to-day, the nation was like a dog living on its own tail. There must come a time very shortly when the true position would have to be faced, and they would have to pay for the apparent prosperity of to-day. The country was faced with an annual budget of approximately six hundred millions. Present taxation brought in about that sum, but that included two hundred million excess war profits tax, which would cease with the war. The suggestion that the easiest way out of the problem was the repudiation of the National Debt was wicked, malicious, and cruel. What would be the position of millions of workmen who had invested in Government securities? Were they to be robbed merely because there were others who had not been so prudent? Therefore, he considered there was no alternative in the future to a tax on capital. Heavy as the burden would be it would be much worse if the peace which was to follow this war left armaments entrenched as they were to-day.

WHAT GOVERNMENT OUGHT TO DO. When peace came the Government ought to say to the 5,000 controlled establishments, "We will guarantee work so that you may keep them going, and not throw the people out of employment. He could think of nothing more likely to precipitate revolution than the wholesale dismissal of millions of persons who to-day were working for the country. (Cheers.) They said they meant to have a share in the control of railways. What did they mean by "control"? Railwaymen desired machinery to deal with their grievances. There were people who talked in a silly way, saying, "You cannot conciliate with the capitalists." (Hear, hear.) "Well," he added, "if you cannot conciliate abolish your trade union."

Mr. Brassington (Manchester): No, abolish your capitalist. (Cheers.)

Mr. Thomas retorted that any one who said they had no right to go and negotiate with the other side was a traitor to the union.

Mr. Morris (Ystrad) considered the first act of reconstruction must be the restoration of liberties taken away from the people during the war. As railwaymen they had to insist on participation in control of railways.

Mr. Brassington (Manchester) predicted that with the transfer of 5,000,000 or 6,000,000 persons from industries for destruction to peace industries there would be over-production and millions of unemployed.

Mr. Cramp (Sheffield) said a tax upon capital might penalise people who ought not to be taxed. What they wanted was to get at individual incomes, fix a maximum, and confiscate above the amount.

Mr. Holloway (York) advocated both the repudiation of the National Debt and the expropriation of wealth.

LIVES OF THE ILLUSTRIOUS

What does the Morning Post say now? Its comment upon the bestowal of new honours upon Lord Reading and Lord Northcliffe is:—

The whole world stands amazed—as we do—at the advancements and peregrinations of those heavenly twins, Lords Reading and Northcliffe. We are told—and we are willing to believe—that they have done the most wonderful work in America, the one in finance, the other in diplomacy. We take it like many other things—upon trust. Yet we are not altogether comfortable over this growing faith of Democracy in the Amateur, and this increasing custom of taking men from their own work and setting them to the work of others. Lord Reading is Chief Justice of England. That surely is enough for one man, even in time of war.

If he is so great an expert in finance as he is now said to be, let him be made Chancellor of the Exchequer or Chairman of the Bank of England or Secretary to the Treasury. Then he would at least be responsible for what he does whether it be right or wrong. At present he is responsible for the Common Law of England, and for nothing else. If our national finances go wrong as a result of his interventions, if he gives a twist to our national policy in one direction or another, the burden of setting matters right will fall on other shoulders. Lord Reading will escape all liability or even censure. He will be back on his Bench, where no one can reach him—not even Parliament. It seems to us altogether subversive of all sound principle of national finance and Parliamentary control that the Chief Justice should be the Adviser of the Government, and even—as we suppose he was—the plenipotentiary in such matters.

We see that Lord Reading is even now acting as Financial Adviser for Great Britain at the Inter-Allied Conference in Paris. Surely the Treasury and the City of London are not so impoverished of talent that we have to employ our Chief Justice on one financial mission after another. If they are, it is a nice reflection on what is supposed to be the greatest financial centre of the world. We are not sure if we rightly understand the functions of these Inter-Allied Conferences which are to meet in France. We do not know what power the representatives may have to commit their respective countries, or whether their functions are merely talk. But if the United Kingdom is to be committed to any financial scheme we think it only right that the business should be handled and the responsibility should be shouldered by the person, whoever he may be—who has to bear the brunt in this country of any commitments which may be made. If Lord Reading was indeed a financial genius of the first order, the public might be inclined to waive the constitutional point. But, as far as we know there is nothing in the record of the Lord Chief Justice to suggest that he has any uncommon capacity in the financial sphere. He has no doubt the natural aptitudes possessed by very many of his class and race; but something more is needed when we are dealing with the liabilities of a nation. We may be at a disadvantage in considering this question, for we frankly distrust, and always have distrusted, Lord Reading; but we rest our argument not on any ground of prejudice but on the issue of principle. Lord Reading is not responsible for finance. If those who are responsible are not fit for their job, let Lord Reading by whom we are to be replaced, be a knave, a scoundrel, however able in charge of our finance one day and our justice the next. It is not sound business.

We take it that these financial pilgrimages are the explanation of the honours showered upon Lord Reading. Yesterday he was a Viscount to-day he is an Earl; to-morrow he may be a Duke. We confess it is almost enough to make people turn Republicans. That other bright particular star, Lord Northcliffe, moves through the constellations with an equal celerity. He kicks Mr. Lloyd George's colleagues and is immediately made a Viscount. It is indeed a modern example of *Noblesse oblige*. Mr. Lloyd George secretly offers to Lord Northcliffe a post occupied by Lord Cowdray. Lord Northcliffe thereupon makes the offer public and takes the opportunity of publicly attacking Mr. Lloyd George's colleagues. Lord Cowdray, in consequence, resigns, and Lord Northcliffe's brother is immediately given his job, while Lord Northcliffe is made a Viscount. It is a curious transaction. If Lord Northcliffe should desire a Dukedom he now knows how to get it. He has only to throw a few more bricks at the Prime Minister's colleagues—and if they resign he can always put his relations into their offices. Thus Mr. Lloyd George and Lord Northcliffe may mutually benefit each other. Lord Northcliffe practices modesty and the Prime Minister forgiveness. Lord Northcliffe refuses a Ministry and becomes a Marquis; Mr. Lloyd George turns the other cheek of a colleague. But while we admire the virtues and the manners of our new rulers, we are tempted to suggest that all these honours, well deserved though they may be, ought to be postponed until victory is crowned with peace. At the present time, when the very existence of the country is threatened, these half-time awards must seem a little premature. Let us first assure that an English Peerage is a permanent. Moreover, even the greatest services, financial or diplomatic, must seem small and tame compared with the greatest sacrifice of all, which is made by those who go over the top. They are nothing. If there are any honours going the heroes of the trenches should have them. Considering the sacrifices they are making others might be content with no reward, save that of the sweetest of all, which comes from men when he feels that he has done duty and served his country.

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SHANGHAI, via SWATOW "KONSHING" Fri., 1st Feb. D'light.
HAI PHONG "LOKSANG" Friday, 1st Feb. 7 a.m.
MANILA "YUENSANG" Friday, 1st Feb. 3 p.m.
MANILA "LUONGSANG" Friday, 6th Feb. 3 p.m.

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MANILA LINE—A weekly service is maintained to Manila by vessels with good passenger accommodation, sailings from both ports every Friday.

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TIENTSIN LINE—A regular service is run from March to October between Hongkong and Tientsin, sailing at Waihaiwei and Chefoo.

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THE PALESTINE CAMPAIGN.

SCOTS AND YEOMANRY.

GALLANT EXPLOITS.

[FROM W. T. MASSEY.]

RAMLEH, November 19th.

In proceeding to Ramleh today I had most complete proof of the population's delight at the British victory. The people turned out by the Turks from Gaza and the surrounding country were trekking back with all their worldly goods and chattels packed on overloaded camels and donkeys, the women bearing astonishingly heavy loads on their heads, while the patriarchs of families rode, or were carried on the shoulders of the younger men. The agriculturists are beginning to turn out to plough and till the fields; now they have the security of British protection. Our troops received the liveliest welcome in passing the villages, and in this changing part of the world the women's gossip during the process of drawing water from the well, just as they did in Biblical days, unhindered by the war's progress, though not heedless of it. There is peace and safety for them all.

This end to extortion, oppression, and pillage under the name of requisitions has, in the short space of a week, wrought a wondrous change in the happiness and contentment of the people. As one travels north as far as Ramleh the country appears more prosperous. Some of the Jewish settlements, such as Katrah, round which desperate fighting took place three days ago, and Akir, where for the first time I saw inhabitants in European clothes greeting our troops, were most enthusiastic for the people know their future is assured. The German propaganda has failed miserably here, though the European tongue most of the people speak is German. British ideals of freedom are thoroughly known, and the exemplary behaviour of our troops has confirmed all previous knowledge of the work done by Great Britain for civilisation.

To say that this country, which a fortnight ago was under the Turkish scourge and was suddenly become normal for the civil population is not to use words of exaggeration. In Ramleh I saw people practising the arts of peace, and the bazaars busy. Whereas its traders are in the habit of driving bargains with their customers, our Yeomanry were buying Jaffa oranges, vegetables, and fresh bread, a welcome change from the depreciated Turkish note to which they are accustomed.

AT RAMLEH.

Ramleh is a picturesque town of substantial proportions, surrounded by well-tended orchards, gardens, and fragrant mimosa hedges, a grateful relief to the ever-smelling battlefields I had passed in the sun-dried plains are bare hills. The plain of Shiloh, which lies before our line, with villages in scores between our line and the mountains of Samaria and Judea, and the mountains of Samaria and Judea, is less fertile probably than the old land of the Philistines we now almost entirely hold. Still, there are large areas of corn-growing land and plenty of stock, capable of supporting a big population. The broad road to Jaffa stands out bright and beautiful above the dust-cloud raised by the troops in Ramleh's narrow streets, which have scarcely been widened since the Saracens built the town, or the Crusaders occupied it. One could see a wide belt of cultivated land near Jaffa where the world-famed oranges and other fruits grow in profusion. This view is a delight, but it is when your eyes turn southwards to see what this glorious army has done since the beginning of the month that you realise how the touch of a civilising hand will influence the future of a country so closely associated with sacred history.

The other day I gave details of the sterling work of the Londoners in attacking Beersheba and rolling up the Turkish line until Gaza had to fall. Now that they have performed a long and difficult task with great thoroughness I may describe some of the deeds of the Scottish troops, Lowlanders most of them; who, true to the finest traditions of their martial race, fought with a dogged tenacity that will stir the blood of all Britons. I have seen these Scots on this front for nearly two years, since they were on Gallipoli. They carved their way from the Suez Canal, digging daily in the sand, until their spades must have become eye-aching tools. At Gaza the renewed periods of trench fighting made open warfare seem to them a thing of the past, but "carry on" was the Scots' cheerful watchword. More than two years of incessant digging and fighting over parapets had not lessened their power in the open. During the last ten days we have seen them defy the artifices of an entrenched enemy and inflict on superior numbers such terrible losses that the Turks have a wholesome dread of the Scottish steel.

They had made all their arrangements for mobile warfare before they took some of Gaza's strongholds, and their confidence was justified. There is one battalion from Edinburgh which was the pride of the city in the old Volunteer days. Its shooting men gained many victories at Bisley and set a high standard of marksmanship for the whole force. To its honourable roll in peace time have been added the triumphs of war, but nothing on its records will shine more brightly than the deeds of this November. They were given the attack on the El Arish Redoubt and "Little Devil," a very nasty corner. The first wave was blown up by four huge mines, but the second wave was not checked for an instant, dashed on with more impetus than in training, over the craters into the redoubt, and captured or killed the Turks defending. Though subjected to a most severe artillery fire, they continued clearing up all the approaches. One place particularly troublesome was Bedouin Hut, a regular

little fort with machine-guns. A platoon commander, with consummate coolness arranged an attack in perfect style, rushed the hut, and killed all in it.

FINE BAYONET CHARGE.

Early on the 17th the Turks were believed to be moving from Gaza. Patrols went out a long way and corroborated this view. In twenty minutes after orders were received to follow the Scots were on the move. Some Glasgow and Highland troops began a terrible march on the sea-shore in fearfully heavy going, ankle-deep in sand. They got to the line of Wadi Hesi, thirteen miles, at five o'clock, and found the enemy entrenched on the opposite side on high ground. It was too dark to reconnoitre, but before eleven a most brilliant bayonet charge gave up all the high ground. South-Western County troops and Scots, passing behind, swung to the right and also attacked. The Turks returned and vigorously assaulted our new positions, pushed back our left. The Glasgow men were using the bayonet again that evening. Making no mistake, they thrust the enemy at the point of steel to beyond a ridge over-looking Beit Seneid, the place where the Ottomans to the north pass, and the gateway to Jerusalem runs near by. So important was this position that the Turks counter-attacked five times, on four occasions driving the Scots off the ridge. They retook it a fifth time, and so smashed up the enemy's fifth attack that the Turks cleared off.

Then it was recognised that it would be wise to make a threat against the enemy's flank. Cavalry dashed off to Askalon, and captured it, and then, by a brilliant little coup, rushed away to Mejdol, several miles inland, put fear into the hearts of the Turks guarding an enormous ammunition dump, and took their surrender. A battalion followed, and occupied Askalon.

On the 10th Glasgow men and one Highland battalion got to Ashdod, of the Bible, and were asked by the Australians to clear the high ground north of Beit Duras, to allow the horses to be watered. Once more these gallant Scots made a bayonet charge, which was splendidly successful. Thus in four nights they made three bayonet attacks over unconquered ground, and it is questionable whether there has even been any more brilliant feat of the kind.

On the 12th there was tremendous fighting at Burkah, and on the following day at Katrah and Maughair, three places north-east of Ashdod. Two Edinburgh and two Rifle battalions attacked Burkah, an extremely difficult position, prepared beforehand with two lines of perfectly-sited trenches. The first had to be attacked up a gully. Then there was a thousand yards of absolutely flat ground to another gully. The riflemen made a stirring advance, and swept the Turks out of the first line. Then, supported by most accurate artillery fire, they carried the second line. The Edinburgh troops were counter-attacked on Brown Hill, and were driven off, but came back, supported by Gurkhas, and retook the hill, the Turks leaving a large number of dead.

YEOMEN'S GREAT CHARGE.

While this fighting was in progress South-Western County troops and Scots got eight miles north of Ashdod, and next morning attacked from the east. Maughair and Katrah are two isolated villages on rocky hills, standing out of the bare plain, both enclosed in cactus hedges. At Katrah there is a Jewish settlement of well-built comfortable houses. Behind it is a native village. The place is admirably suited for defence. North of Maughair Hill there is a hill with a double crest, just behind which is Sugar Loaf Hill. While this attack was in progress, Yeomanry from two Thames-side counties and one Southern County regiment got to Yebnah, a big village on the west, between which and Maughair is a wide plain intersected by a wadi. The Yeomen galloped across the plain with no cover at all, and got on to the Sugar Loaf. Their charge to this position, in succeeding waves, furnished a spectacle rarely seen during this war. Their appearance undoubtedly contributed to the capture of Maughair. While the Scots were routing out the rest of the machine gunners in a pretty clump of cypresses, surrounded by cactus, a great obstacle to securing the enemy's main position, the Yeomen, under gun and rifle fire, crept over Sugar Loaf Hill to the double-topped hill, thus distracting the Turks' attention a good deal from the Scots' attack. The latter rushed forward and cleared the whole place. The Turks, hemmed in on all sides, were driven into a valley, and 1,400 prisoners, twenty-eight machine-guns, and three field guns were handed over to the Yeomen, of whose assistance the Scots speak highly. They also give high credit to the West Country English troops who, during the attack on Burkah, swung round at an opportune moment and threatened the enemy's left, a highly creditable manoeuvre of the Brigadier.

The Scots again acted with West Countrymen on the 15th, when together they got across the railway, blew up the line, and cut off Jerusalem from the enemy's main force. There were so many gallant and clever things done by the Scots in these trying days that it is impossible to mention all. One man with a Lewis gun enfiladed a Turkish trench. The enemy had enough in ten seconds, and threw up their hands, and we took forty-five prisoners. Every Scot learns to throw bombs and use the Lewis gun. The Stokes gun was found useful out of the trenches. The Turkish machine-guns were busy in a partly captured position, but the Scots enclosed them in a box barrage, a Stokes gun was brought up, searched the area, and finished off the enemy.

The Scots have proved ten times better men with the bayonet than the Turk. This is demonstrated by the numbers of dead the enemy left behind after every attack. One Scottish battalion marched sixty-nine miles in seven days, fighting a good deal of the way. The behaviour of these stout Scots on the sacred soil of Palestine has been grand. None of Sir Walter Scott's "Talisman" heroes fought with greater determination than our valiant Lowlanders.—Daily Telegraph.

WEATHER REPORT.

January 28th, at 12.05.—No returns from Japan and Vladivostok. The anti-cyclone continues to weaken, and pressure has decreased, no wind over N. China; other changes are light.

Fresh monsoon will prevail along the China Coast and over the N. China Sea.

Hongkong rainfall for 24 hours ending at 10 a.m. to-day, 0.00 inch. Total since 1st January, 0.01 inches, against an average of 1.30 inches.

The forecast for the 24 hours ending at noon to-day is as follows:—

DISTRICT	FORECAST
Hongkong to Cap Reef	(N.E. wind, moderate; fine)
Formosa Channel	(North wind, strong)
South Coast of China between (The same as Hongkong and Lamcocks) No. 1.	
South Coast of China between (The same as Hongkong and Baitan) No. 1.	

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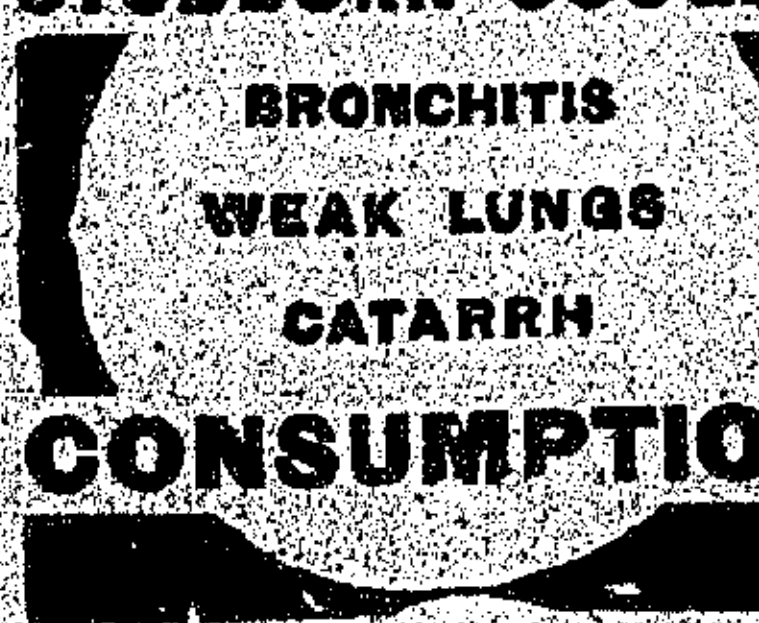
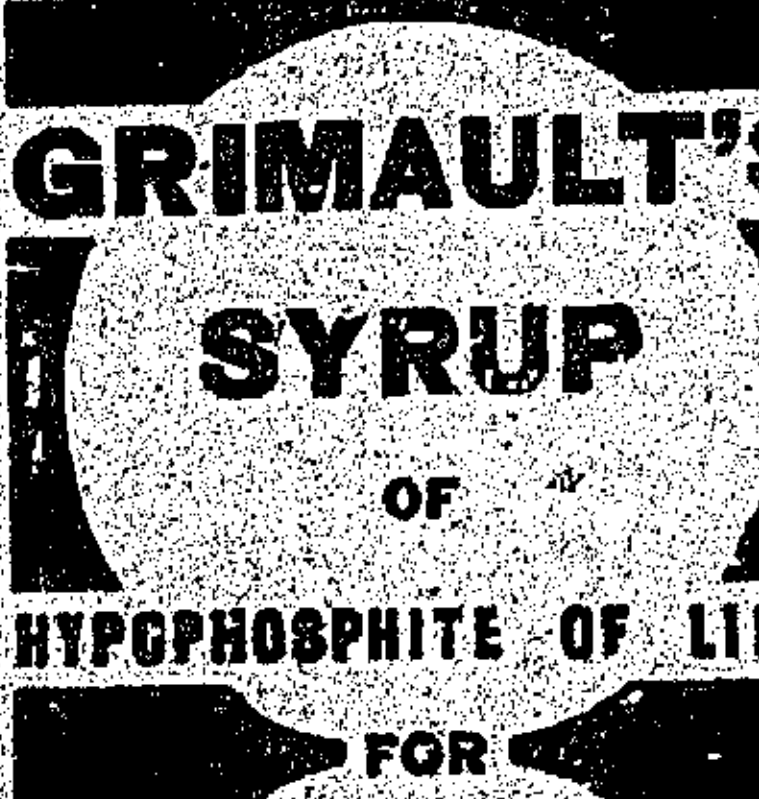
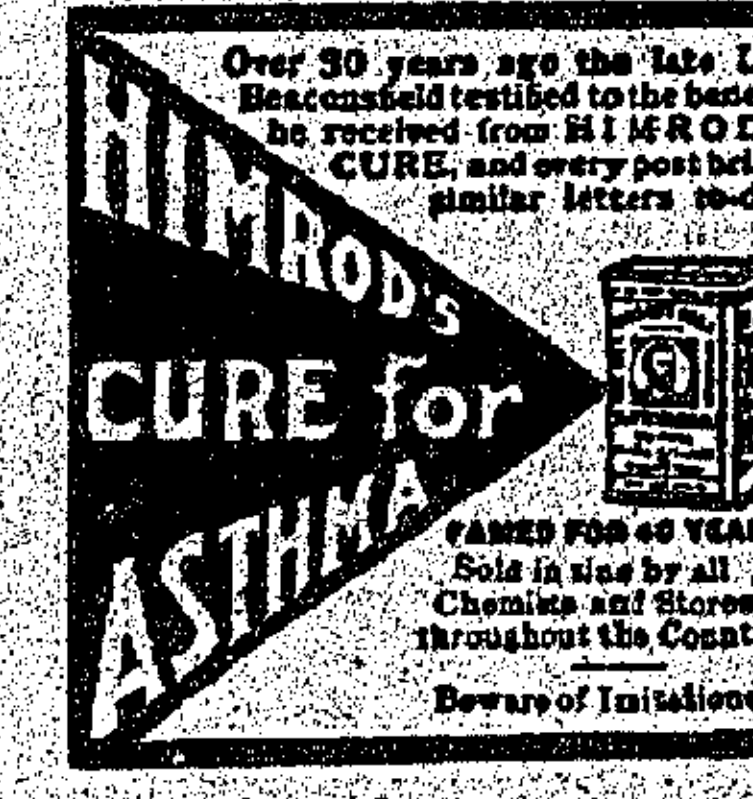
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FOR	STEAMERS	TO	DATE
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SHANGHAI	"SINKIANG"	On 31st Jan., 3 P.M.	
TSINGTAO, WEIHAI, WEE & CHEFOO	"HUICHOW"	On 31st Jan., 3 P.M.	
SHANGHAI	"SHUNTIAN"	On 2nd Feb., 3 P.M.	

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NAGASAKI, KOBE and	TANGO MARU	(FRIDAY, 16th Feb., at 11 A.M.)
YOKOHAMA		
SHANGHAI, KOBE and	KAMOMARU	(MONDAY, 19th Feb., at 11 A.M.)
YOKOHAMA		
	IYO MARU	(WED'DAY, 20th Feb., at 11 A.M.)

SHANGHAI, KOBE and	CEYLON MARU	(SATURDAY, 2nd Feb., at Noon)
YOKOHAMA		

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KORRA MARU	18,000	SAT., 9th Mar.
SIBERIA MARU	18,000	FRI., 22nd Mar.
TENYO MARU	12,000	SAT., 9th Apr.
NIPPON MARU	14,000	TUES., 16th Apr.

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"MEXICO MARU"	THURSDAY, 28th Feb., at 3 P.M.

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